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SCOTT, J. W. R. *A Free Farmer in a Free State*. Pp. xlii, 235. Price, 6 shillings. London: William Hinemann, 1912.

The prosperity of the Dutch farmer is so pronounced that he "has ceased from grumbling, and . . . admits that he is doing very well." He has been driven to the exertion necessary in attaining this happy state, by "the gracious pinch of foreign competition" which impelled him to shift from wheat and buckwheat to butter, cheese, kitchen vegetables, bulbs and flowers. The necessary change in methods of production was accomplished through coöperative associations, which serve the supervisory and regulative purpose of guilds.

"Last year of all the 958 creameries in the country, 680 were coöperative; likewise 201 cheese factories out of 291. Education in agricultural science has aided; nearly every farmer one meets can talk about phosphoric acid and nitrogen. He can tell you the proportion of fat in milk and he sprays his potatoes."

In five years the annual output of butter has increased by 7000 tons. Fifteen years ago The Netherlands sent about 5,700 tons of bulbs in a twelve-month; the export is now thrice that weight. . . . In the course of several visits to Holland, I have never met any one who disputed the fact that in spite of the rise of food throughout Europe, food is still relatively cheap in Holland, and that more of it is eaten, or that wages are higher and people better housed." The percentage of illiteracy among recruits was 12.3 in 1880, but only 1.4 in 1909; the percentage measuring 5½ feet and over was only 28 in 1880, but 46.56 in 1909.

This is an Englishman's description of rural life in The Netherlands: full of praise, for the most part well deserved, though occasionally one may suspect a purpose of making the best possible case—as when the increase in rural population is shown by comparison with a date so far back as 1830: a more recent starting point would have been more significant.

A. P. WINSTON.

Pearre, Md.

SLATER, GILBERT. *The Making of Modern England*. Pp. xi, 308. Price, \$2.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1913.

HAYES, CARLTON. *British Social Politics*. Pp. xi, 580. Price, \$1.75. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1913.

The appearance of these two books is particularly opportune. We have been watching with interest British experiments to solve social problems by legislation, and already have become imitators. Several states have established wage boards modeled on those of Great Britain rather than those of Australasia. Insurance against unemployment and against sickness is already being discussed. A large percentage of our workmen's compensation laws are modeled on those of Great Britain, and we have avoided, to a great extent, state insurance as developed in Germany.

Professor Slater's volume is a careful and lucid study of the forces—economic, social, political—that have made England what she is today. Special emphasis is laid on the development of the labor movement and of labor

legislation, on the development of tariff ideas and of the tariff and on changes in municipal government. This story of the growth of England from the close of the Napoleonic wars is interesting and is well told. The chapters on labor are probably the best. Professor Slater has summarized a mass of material in a remarkably short space. The book gives a vivid picture of England and of the forces that have been at work. It is unfortunate that there are no bibliography, citations and references, as these would have given the study greater value to the student.

Dr. Hayes takes up the story and in a source book gives us "first hand materials for the study of current social and political problems." Although the book is intended for college and university students, the short introductions to the material on the various subjects give it value for the more mature student and reader. In some cases, the bills under discussion by the members of Parliament who are quoted are given in their entirety, in others the important clauses are included. The subjects treated, workmen's compensation, trade unionism, child welfare, old age pensions, the unemployed, sweated labor, housing, Lloyd George budget, curbing the lands, national insurance, cover the important social legislation of the Liberal administration that came into power in 1905. The attitude of the various parties is shown in the speeches quoted. Dr. Hayes has assembled for us a group of very interesting and valuable documents, not readily accessible.

ALEXANDER FLEISHER.

Philadelphia.

SMITH, G. B. *Social Idealism and the Changing Theology*, Pp. xxiii, 251. Price \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

MACFARLAND, C. S. (Ed.) *Christian Unity at Work*. Pp. 291. Price, \$1; and *Report of Proceedings of the Second Quadrennial Council of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America*. Pp. 140 (gratis with order for above book). New York: The Federal Council of Churches, 1913.

These three books are significant of the change that is rapidly taking place in the attitude of the church toward the problems of modern life. They represent both theory and practice. Professor Smith's book contains in substance the lectures delivered before the Yale Divinity School in 1912 on the Nathaniel William Taylor Foundation. It is a plea for the ethical transformation of the theology to fit it to make its contribution to the civilization of our age. The author holds that "the movements of life in our day have brought to the front aspects of the social question sadly needing the guidance and control which can be supplied only by an ethical religion. The utterances of theology, in so far as it has followed traditional paths, have been somewhat remote from these pressing moral questions of social justice." Professor Smith believes that "the time has come when the secular forces of reform are crying loudly for the aid which can come only from a religious idealism" and it is to indicate the character this idealism must take that his book has been written. To make clear the latent religious values of those aspects of modern life which are holding the center of the stage today and to give them their proper place in systematic theology is a task of vital importance if the church